

members of this committee are acutely aware of the intent of Congress in the establishment of training programs for counselors and personnel workers through the National Defense Education Act of 1958 and its subsequent amendments. Our Association has, I repeat, consistently supported such legislation because we felt that it was in the best interest of American education and American youth. As we survey the scene today, we find that the work of NDEA has succeeded in preparing at the graduate level, many more counselors for American schools, colleges, and agencies than ever before. Indeed, the record will show that approximately 21,000 counselors have been prepared or their education extended through Title V-B of NDEA. It is with pride that we recognize the role of this committee, the Congress, and our Association in this development. However, I should like to point out that there is still considerable need for support in our field. I would also like to suggest that the need for counselors seems not to be diminishing at all, but in fact is increasing. Various forms of social legislation passed by the Congress have indicated the compelling need for improved counseling and guidance services. However, subsequent legislation to provide training for the counselors has not been forthcoming. Consequently, we find that counselors are sometimes leaving school settings to move into other counseling situations brought about by federal programs. We would like to see the continued support of the preparation of counselors not only for schools and colleges but for all the various social agencies included in past and projected social legislation.

We think it is very important that section 532(b) be revised to specify "pupil and student personnel specialists such as counselors, social workers, school psychologists and student personnel workers." Such specificity could come from adding a number nine after line seven on page 61.

Furthermore, we would like to support the testimony of Secretary Gardner and Commissioner Howe when they suggest that currently supported programs will not receive any less support under these amendments.

In addition, we would like to see the same kind of specificity be accorded the broad field of College Student Personnel Work. This could be done by adding to section 541(a) line 16, page 62 the phrase College Student Personnel Workers.

We want to give as much help as possible to the Congress and the Office of Education. We would like to see in section 532(c) reference to the advisability of involving professional organizations in the development of guidelines and for planning the implementation of training programs and projects.

The third area of concern we have is related to the language dealing with training programs themselves. We laud efforts of the Congress at providing funds for experimentation and for making training programs more flexible and for opening new sources of educational activity. However, we are obliged to point out that constant change need not by definition mean continued improvement. Our Association is committed to graduate training programs for counselors in schools and other agencies. We are more than anxious to participate in a wide variety of efforts at increasing the effectiveness of training. However, we are somewhat fearful that the wording of the present bill is such as to indicate a de-emphasis of graduate education for counselors and an increased reliance on short-term, non-supervised activities. We think it is imperative that the education of professional educators be pursued with diligence and academic enthusiasm. Therefore, we ask this committee to consider alteration of the wording of the bill to insure that at least a substantial proportion of the training institutes be managed by established counselor education programs. We in no way wish to limit the development of new programs nor experimentation with the preparation of counselors, but we do insist that practices developed over the past decades do have relevance and do have in them the ability to effectively prepare counselors for a variety of settings.

Finally, we would urge that this committee consider adding to the bill more support for evaluating proposed new practices as well as those which are firmly established. We recognize that the evaluation of human activities is not an easy task. However, we are convinced that the continued expenditure of federal and local funds on new programs has with it the obligation to evaluate that which is done. We therefore urge the addition of provisions for the evaluation of the various activities which are relevant under these amendments.

On behalf of the Association and the Federal Relations Committee I thank you for the opportunity of presenting these viewpoints to you. We continue to offer our services in any way possible toward the more effective education of American youth.